

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

SuperArray Bioscience Corporation

Maryland Technology Extension Service

Superarray Bioscience Develops Bar Code System To Save Costs

Client Profile:

SuperArray Bioscience Corporation is a small company that produces cutting-edge gene array technology. The company is located in Frederick, Maryland and employs 24 people.

Situation:

SuperArray wanted to implement a bar code system for tracking inventory and kit components shipped to clients. The company needed the bar code system to include part number, date, and serial number. SuperArray contacted the Maryland Technology Extension Service (MTES), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

MTES dealt with the critical issue of developing a suitable bar code label that would fit and adhere to a one-quarter inch by one-half inch cylindrical tube surface. The label had to reliably and permanently adhere to the cylindrical package. MTES evaluated various bar code symbologies to find the best way to maximize the number of character symbols that could be placed and scanned reliably on a small surface area. Using this research, MTES developed a six-character bar code specially sized for SuperArray's small tubes.

Results:

Developed a viable bar code system for tracking inventory and kit components shipped to clients, including bar code software, labels, scanner, and bar code printer.

Saving \$10,000 per year in costs.

Testimonial:

"SuperArray Bioscience Corporation has benefited a great deal from the Maryland Technology Extension Service program. With [its] expert service in engineering and lean production, we have improved our productivity....The MTES program is a valuable technical resource that a biotech company like SuperArray can count on."

Sean X Yu, Vice President of Operations